

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 06248 220532Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OMB-01 /067 W
-----011514 231010Z /20

R 211215Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5371
INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 06248

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK
SUBJ: LABOR HOLDS LAMBETH IN BY-ELECTION

SUMMARY: THE LABOR PARTY HELD ITS "SAFE" LAMBETH
CENTRAL SEAT IN THE APRIL 20 BY-ELECTION, ALBEIT BY A
REDUCED MARGIN IN A LOW VOTER TURNOUT, AS EXPECTED.
THE LIBERALS WERE DRIVEN INTO FOURTH PLACE BY THE
NATIONAL FRONT (NF) WHICH CAPTURED 6.2 PERCENT OF THE
VOTE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE LABOR PARTY RETAINED ITS LAMBETH CENTRAL SEAT
IN THE APRIL 20 BY-ELECTION, AS ALL OBSERVERS HAD
EXPECTED, THOUGH ITS MARGIN OF VICTORY WAS REDUCED IN A
LOW VOTER TURNOUT. (LAMBETH CENTRAL TENDS TO BE A LOW
TURNOUT AREA, IN PART BECAUSE OF THE TRANSIENCE OF ITS
POPULATION -- IT WAS 52.6 PERCENT IN OCTOBER 1974). THE
SWING AGAINST LABOR WAS 4.6 PERCENT (THE PRESS HAVE
INCORRECTLY REPORTED A 9.3 PERCENT SWING AGAINST LABOR)
AS ITS SHARE OF THE TOTAL VOTE DECLINED 3 PERCENT WHILE
THE CONSERVATIVES' INCREASED 6 PERCENT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 06248 220532Z

2. THE LIBERAL PARTY, FOLLOWING THE PATTERN OF RECENT
BY-ELECTIONS, WAS HAMMERED. ITS SHARE OF THE VOTE
COLLAPSED FROM 17.3 PERCENT IN 1974 TO 5.3 PERCENT. THE
NEO-FASCIST NF, APPARENTLY SOAKING UP SOME OF THE
PROTEST VOTE THAT USED TO GO TO THE LIBERALS, RECEIVED
6.2 PERCENT. SEVEN OTHER MINOR CANDIDATES ATTRACTED
4.7 PERCENT.

3. COMMENT: THE OUTCOME WAS LARGELY AS ANTICIPATED AND ITS MOST IMPORTANT RESULT SEEMS TO BE THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RECENT TREND IN LIBERAL FORTUNES IN A CONSTITUENCY WHERE THE LIBERALS HAD HOPED TO REVERSE THE TIDE. WE DO NOT FIND THE NF'S THIRD PLACE FINISH PARTICULARLY ALARMING, AS THE BULK OF ITS SUPPORT SEEMS TO HAVE COME FROM THOSE WISHING TO MANIFEST DISCONTENT WITH THE POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT. UNTIL THE LIBERALS ENTERED THE PACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT, THEY COULD COUNT ON RECEIVING MOST OF THOSE VOTES -- NOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN "COOPTED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT," THE NF BECOMES THE LOGICAL RECIPIENT OF THE "STICK IN THE EYE" VOTE. WHILE THE RESULT WAS NOT AS PROMISING AS THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE HOPED FOLLOWING THE BUDGET, AND THE TORIES WERE NO DOUBT HEARTENED BY THEIR CANDIDATE'S IMPROVED PERFORMANCE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE RESULTS ARE OF ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE.

STREATOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, ELECTION RESULTS, ELECTIONS, LABOR UNIONS, PARTY ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON06248
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780173-0466
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780432/aaaabagl.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ce1befa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2894164
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR HOLDS LAMBETH IN BY-ELECTION SUMMARY: THE LABOR PARTY HELD ITS "SAFE" LAMBETH CENTRAL SEAT IN THE APRIL 20 BY-ELECTION, ALBEIT B
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ce1befa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014